

Commandant's Policy Statement on Equal Opportunity

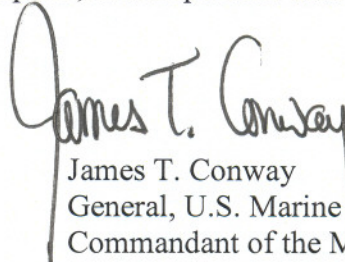
Equal opportunity is a leadership issue — EO and leadership combined equate to mission readiness, which is our ultimate goal as Marines. Our mission requires mutual trust that can only exist in an environment where every individual is treated with respect and dignity — regardless of race, color, gender, religion, age, or national origin.

As Marines, we pride ourselves on “taking care of our own.” In order to maintain this proud tradition of our Corps, there can be no tolerance for discrimination or harassment. These are contrary to our Core Values and have corrosive effects on our mission readiness and the cohesiveness of our warfighting team. Our most valuable asset is the individual Marine, and we must ensure that optimal conditions are set for each member of our diverse Marine Corps family to succeed. This can only be done if a standard of equal treatment and opportunity is enforced.

The Marine Corps is truly an elite force comprised of some of the best men and women our Nation has to offer. As professional warriors, we must hold each other accountable for building the trust and esprit de corps that are vital to our success on the battlefield.

I expect all Marines, Sailors, and Civilian Marines to steadfastly adhere to our Core Values. These values maintain the fundamental qualities that are the cornerstones of the Marine Corps' legacy — pride, leadership, discipline, and respect for human dignity.




James T. Conway
General, U.S. Marine Corps
Commandant of the Marine Corps